

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A howling margin measuring device comprising processing means composed of gain controlling means and a compressor which are connected in series and controlling means,

wherein the gain controlling means outputs an input sound signal after giving a gain thereto;

wherein if the level of a sound signal input to the compressor is equal to or higher than a threshold level, the compressor outputs the sound signal after compressing it with a specified ratio;

wherein the controlling means is capable of controlling the gain of the gain controlling means and reading the compression level of the compressor; and

wherein the controlling means reads the compression level of the compressor while gradually increasing the gain of the gain controlling means, determines whether or not howling has been generated based on whether the read compression level has a value equal to or higher than a specified value, and calculates a howling margin based on the gain of the gain controlling means when it is determined that howling has been generated.

2. (Original) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 1,

wherein the controlling means determines that howling has been generated, based on whether or not a condition in which the read compression level is equal to or higher than a specified level has continued for a specified period of time.

3. (Currently amended) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 1[[or 2]],

wherein the compressor is connected to the gain controlling means, being placed in a stage posterior to the gain controlling means.

4. (Currently amended) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 1 to any one of claims 1 to 3, comprising displaying means for displaying the calculated howling margin.

5. (Currently amended) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 4,

wherein the processing means is capable of inputting a sound signal from a microphone and releasing an output signal to a speaker.

6. (New) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 2,
wherein the compressor is connected to the gain controlling means, being placed in a stage posterior to the gain controlling means.

7. (New) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 2, comprising displaying means for displaying the calculated howling margin.

8. (New) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 3, comprising displaying means for displaying the calculated howling margin.

9. (New) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 2,
wherein the processing means is capable of inputting a sound signal from a microphone and releasing an output signal to a speaker.

10. (New) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 3,
wherein the processing means is capable of inputting a sound signal from a microphone and releasing an output signal to a speaker.

11. (New) The howling margin measuring device according to claim 4,
wherein the processing means is capable of inputting a sound signal from a microphone and releasing an output signal to a speaker.